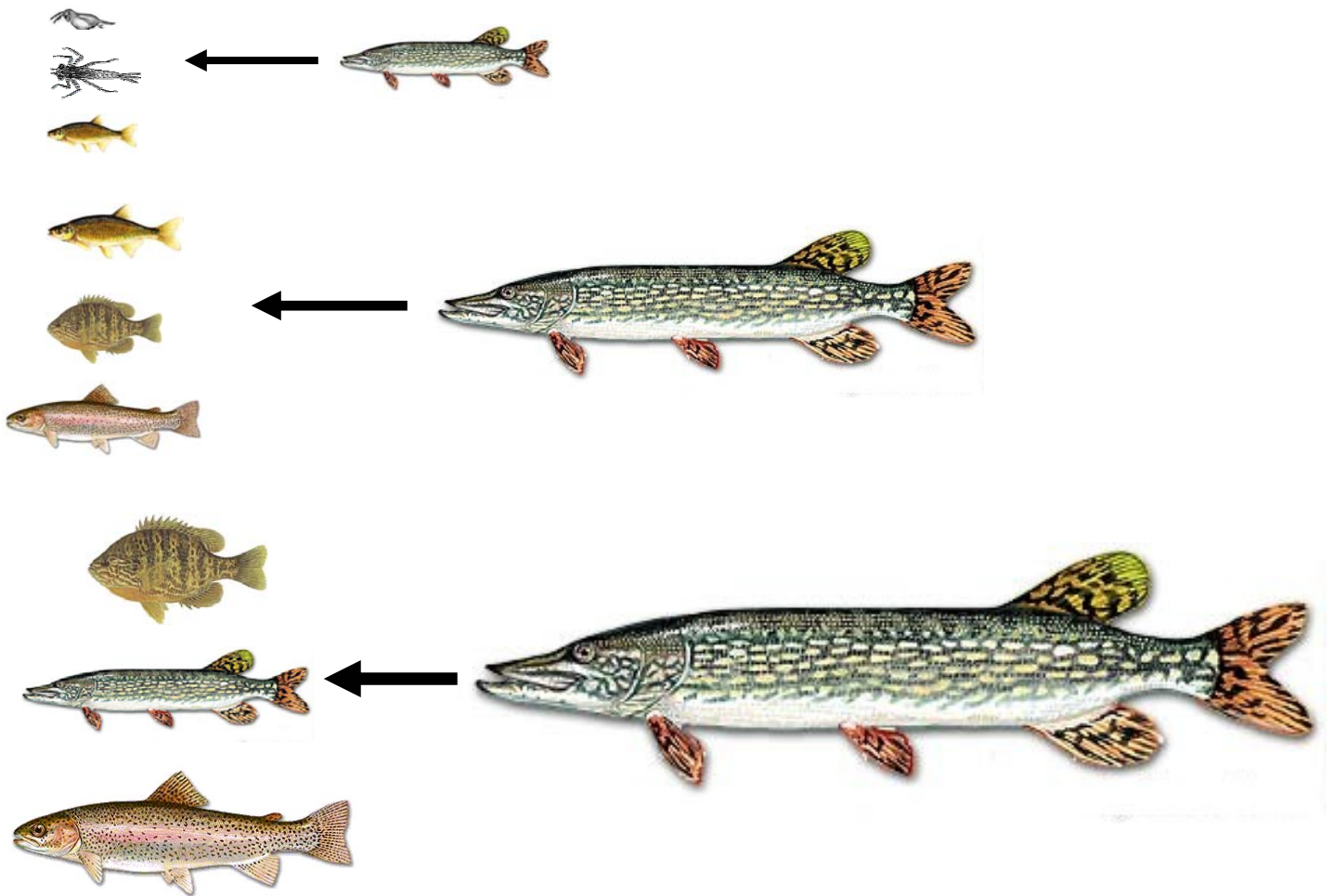


What do the pike in Lake Davis eat?

The diet of a northern pike changes as it grows from the larval stage to an adult. Larval pike, about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, feed on small zooplankton and aquatic invertebrates such as midge larva and damsel larva. Larval and juvenile pike grow at a rate of approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ inch per week. At about $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inches long, the juvenile pike starts to feed on juvenile golden shiners, pumpkinseed sunfish, and other juvenile pike.

A small adult, about 16 to 24 inches long, will eat mostly small to larger sized fish, such as large shiners, large sunfish, other pike, and rainbow trout. Our studies indicate a pike can consume a rainbow trout about $\frac{1}{2}$ the length of the pike. Thus, a 20 inch pike could consume a trout up to 10 or 11 inches in length.

Large adult pike longer than 24 inches have a diet comprised mainly of rainbow trout. We have also found pumpkinseed sunfish and smaller pike in the large pike stomachs. One of the pike we examined had a mammal (an aquatic vole) in its stomach. Pike have also been found to eat small birds and ducklings, but we have not found any in the stomachs of pike.



Catch a pike? Kill it and call 1-888-CALTip and leave a message, or call our office at (530) 832-9682. You can also turn the fish in to Grizzly Store at Lake Davis or Dollard's Sierra Market in Portola.